



Hydrock

Headlines

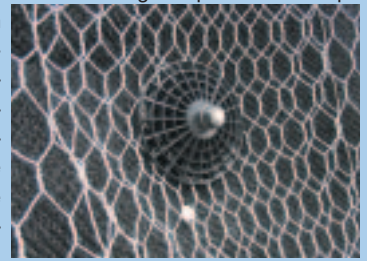


Headlines is the newsletter of Hydrock: a leading provider of consultancy and specialist contracting services for construction, infrastructure and the environment

December 2006

Sharp Rise for Specialist Geotechnical Contracting

"Growing demand for Hydrock's expertise in the Design and Build of slope stabilisation solutions is down to the cost and time efficiencies that we can provide," states Dr Adam Fisher, Hydrock Director with responsibility for Specialist Geotechnical Solutions. "We have a commercial, innovative approach to design and the depth of knowledge and experience to implement that design." On two recent contracts on residential developments, Hydrock was called in when the developments were nearing completion and slope stabilisation issues were raised. In both cases, the team was asked to do a job which would be aesthetically pleasing, with as little intrusion as possible, and as cost effectively as possible. Gavin Kemmett of PG Developments, commenting on the work carried out on his site in Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset, said, "There are always last minute challenges on site. Hydrock made it as painless as possible on this site with difficult access to sort out this slope stabilisation issue and we got exactly what we needed."



Brownfield Success For Hydrock

Hydrock has been appointed to English Partnerships' National Panel of Consultants for Geotechnical and Remediation works based on a rigorous assessment of the company's land quality expertise and capabilities. As one of only eleven companies selected nationally, this is a major achievement for Hydrock and will enable us to work on English Partnerships projects including; Hospital Sites Disposal Programme; Land Stabilisation Programme; National Coalfields Programme, as well as supporting their core activities of over 1,000 hectares of Brownfield Land Assembly and Disposals. The contract runs from now until 2010.



Sustainable Remediation Cuts Costs by 40%

A sustainable remediation solution for cadmium contaminated soils on the first phase of a 2.7 ha site with a complex industrial history has meant a saving for residential developer, Bellway, of over 40% of the cost of disposal to landfill. The remediation solution to fix cadmium in soils through an ex-situ mixing process has been designed and implemented by Hydrock following close liaison with Environmental Health Officers and the Environment Agency. Site trials of the process were undertaken within a tight time scale to prove the viability of a number of techniques with a phosphate based treatment being selected. Other parts of the site had been subject to a 'dig and dump' remediation in the '90s. "It is satisfying to see our proposals for a more sustainable, technology-led solution being adopted and then, as principal contractor, to be able to implement them and save our client substantial sums of money in the process!", Comments Hydrock's Remediation Project Manager, Dr Sam Hall. Hydrock is also advising on the next phase of the site at the former BPC Site, Fenny Stratford, Milton Keynes. This will involve remediation of other contaminants present in both soils and groundwater including tars, complex cyanides, hydrocarbons and phenols.



Ex-situ mixing of cadmium contaminated soils was part of the sustainable remediation solution



The site had a contamination legacy left by a printing works, a gas works, pigment manufacturing and filled brick pits.



Happy Christmas
from all at
Hydrock

This year we have decided not to send Christmas Cards to Clients - on your behalf we have donated the money that we would have spent to the NSPCC. We hope that you will understand and support our decision!

(NSPCC registered charity number 216401)



"Thanks for your input and drawings yesterday. It's nice for me to be on a D & B project and feel comfortable that the designers have it under control. I can assure you it doesn't happen too often! Must use Hydrock more! Peter Bastin Lorne Stewart."

Career Opportunities

www.hydrockfutures.co.uk

If you are interested in developing your career as part of a highly motivated team that is committed to customer service, please go to our recruitment website for details of current vacancies. We can't wait to hear from you!



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Valuable Development Opportunity in Redundant Petrol Stations

A trend towards the closure of Petrol Filling Stations has created residential and commercial redevelopment opportunities in attractive urban locations across the country. Whilst the contamination legacy left by the long term use of hydrocarbon compounds such as petrol, diesel, lubricating oils, and solvents makes these sites appear to be a high risk for developers, with appropriate investigation and treatment, the remediation issues can often be dealt



with quickly and cost-effectively. Hydrock is currently assisting several companies in turning derelict sites into attractive new developments. "These sites are usually only suitable for a small number of units so our job is to find a commercial solution which is acceptable to the client and meets the requirements of the regulatory authorities," comments Eric Cooper, Hydrock Technical Director and a Specialist in Land Condition (SiLC). Hydrock offers a complete service, from site purchase through carrying out the remediation works to creation of a new development platform.

Timely M&E Design For Media Centre

A new £13.8m media building at the Tremough Campus of Falmouth University continues apace with the topping out this month. Last minute client changes meant that the installation of the Mechanical and Electrical services commenced within seven days of being designed by Hydrock! New techniques were used to cut installation time, including the use of plastic heating and chilled water pipework which was constructed off site.



Top Marks for Considerate Constructors

Hydrock personnel working on the Emergency Stabilisation of the Combe Down Stone Mines in Bath have been given a glowing report by the Considerate Constructors inspector who gave top marks for being a good neighbour. "The general public can clearly observe, given the scale of the works in the middle of this residential area, that Hydrock are going about their work in an efficient manner on this contract, working to both the letter and spirit of the Code of Conduct. The team is to be congratulated for the efforts they are making to integrate the working of the site with the local population."



New Website Goes Live!

A complete overhaul of the Hydrock website has just been completed to reflect the changes that have taken place in the company over the last few years. "The site has not been significantly changed since it was created 5 years ago", comments Managing Director, Dr Brian McConnell, "In that time we have not only added new services and grown geographically, but we have also added significantly to our pool of experience and expertise - we had 20 staff then and now have 255!" www.hydrock.com



Renewable Energy Partnership

Over the last few years, energy-efficiency, sustainability and renewable energy have become concepts which are ingrained in the thinking of architects, specifiers and developers. Energy saving construction concepts are becoming ever more important with the tangible environmental impact of greenhouse gasses and the limited supply of fossil fuels. Working in partnership with Rehau, one of the world's leading manufacturers of renewable energy equipment and Lorne Stewart, a national building services installation contractor, Hydrock is able to offer a complete renewable energy solution from design to installation and commissioning, including:

- Geothermal Heating • Ground Air Heat Exchange • Solar Heating • Photovoltaic Systems • Rain Water Recovery • Under Floor Heating/Cooling • Water Attenuation • Thermal Modelling • Grant Funding and Support.

For more information contact: Ian Griffiths or Gareth Parsons on 01752 347515.



Thanks for Helping Us!

An ipod nano, a case of wine, tickets to see Paul Simon, a hamper, a digital camera and M & S vouchers have been among the prizes won by clients who have completed and returned customer satisfaction questionnaires in the last six months. The responses, which are entered into a draw each month, enable us to monitor our performance and continue to provide a first class service. Thanks to everyone who has helped us. "Just a short message to thank you and Hydrock for the brilliant night my wife and I had at the Paul Simon concert at the NEC last Saturday. He really is well worth seeing. Took me back to my youth!" Dave Walton, Linden Homes, Southern, Ltd.



Hydrock Challenges 2006!



Dressing up in a chicken suit and running across an inflatable obstacle course is a sure fire way to break down barriers and get people working as a team! This is just one of the activities that nearly 200 clients and staff gamely participated in during the course of two Hydrock Team Building Challenges in Northampton and Bristol this autumn! Other activities included laser clay shooting, archery, blind 4 x 4 driving, wet sponge throwing, sumo wrestling(!) and mental challenges. Great fun was had by all - thanks to everyone for being such sports!

New Offices in Plymouth!

Building work is well underway on Hydrock's new premises in Plymouth. The offices, located in renovated farm buildings in the beautiful rural surroundings of Lobb Shippon, Plympton, will be ready for occupation in the Spring. The offices have easy access from the A38 and the city centre and have plentiful parking. "We have been growing steadily since we opened in Plymouth 4 years ago," says Director, Steve Wherry, "and these new premises will accommodate the whole team with plenty of room to grow!"



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